

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

The Examiner's indication in the Office Action that Claims 2-4 and 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner's indication that Claims 10 and 11 are allowable over the prior art of record is also noted with appreciation.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Waszkowycz et al., *Large-Scale Virtual Screening for Discovering Leads in the Postgenomic Era* ("Waszkowycz et al.").

Waszkowycz et al. disclose in silico screening as a new approach to search for novel lead compounds in the pharmaceutical industry. Waszkowycz et al. further disclose a project involving the virtual screening of a large database of commercially available compounds against the estrogen hormone receptor employing molecular docking to predict the binding modes and binding affinity of the compounds.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Waszkowycz et al. fail to disclose a method of transforming a product development process to reduce time in bringing a product to market comprising the steps of, *inter alia*, "(c) formulating a plurality of compositions according to compositional characteristics; (d) bench testing the compositions; and (e) correlating the compositions to actual engine performance" as presently recited in Claim 1. Instead, Waszkowycz et al. simply disclose a project involving the virtual screening of a large database of commercially available compounds against the estrogen receptor to identify lead compounds that

are potent ligands in the pharmaceutical industry. The screening of a large database of commercially available compounds against the estrogen receptor to identify lead compounds is not within the scope of the method of transforming a product development process to reduce time in bringing a product to market comprising, *inter alia*, “(c) formulating a plurality of compositions according to compositional characteristics; (d) bench testing the compositions; and (e) correlating the compositions to actual engine performance” as presently recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Waszkowycz et al. cannot possibly anticipate the presently recited method of transforming a product development process to reduce time in bringing a product to market of Claims 1 and 5.

There is likewise no suggestion, motivation or even a hint in Waszkowycz et al. of a method of transforming a product development process to reduce time in bringing a product to market comprising, *inter alia*, “(c) formulating a plurality of compositions according to compositional characteristics; (d) bench testing the compositions; and (e) correlating the compositions to actual engine performance” as presently recited in Claim 1. Instead, as discussed above, Waszkowycz et al. simply disclose a project involving the virtual screening of a large database of commercially available compounds against the estrogen receptor to identify lead compounds that are potent ligands in the pharmaceutical industry. As such, nothing in Waszkowycz et al. would lead one skilled in the art to look to the screening method of Waszkowycz et al. for use in the pharmaceutical industry and arrive at the presently recited method of transforming a product development process to reduce time in bringing a product to market for use in the lubricant industry with any expectation of success.

Appln. No. 10/699,506
Amdt. dated February 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated December 2, 2005

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1 and 5 are believed to be patentable over Waszkowycz et al.. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-11 as presented herein are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Carmen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent.

Michael E. Carmen
Reg. No. 43,533
Attorney for Applicants

M. CARMEN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC
170 Old Country Road – Suite 400
Mineola, NY 11501
Phone: (516) 992-1848
Facsimile: (516) 739-0981
MEC:bg